

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

June 22, 2007

Members Present

Bev Woodhurst
Ginger King Luetkemeyer
Deann Fiedler
Amanda Coleman
Trish Grassa
Pat Jackson
Sue Alderton

Dorothy Parks
Heidi Atkins Lieberman
Kris Callen
Martha Crabtree
Karen Coleman
Stefanie Wickers
Mary Kay Savage

Jeaneal Alexander
Joan Zavitsky
Eileen Huth
Sherri Tucker
Patti Simcosky
Doreen Frappier

Members Not Present

Cathy Einhorn
Diane Francis
Melissa Frazier
Tammy Hicks
Jerry Neal

Kim Oligschlaeger
Lynda Roberts
Ken Southwick
Theresa Valdes
Teresa VanDover

Steve Viola
Ray Wicks
Shirley Woods

DESE Staff Present

Shawn Brice, Director, Career Special Needs, Division of Career Education
Cynthia Quetsch, Legal Counsel, Division of Special Education

Guests

Charla Eales, Department of Corrections

Copies of handouts distributed at the meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes – Bev Woodhurst called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Introductions were made. Joan Zavitsky made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

Missouri Career Centers – Shawn Brice, Director of the Career Special Needs Section in the Division of Career Education, presented information to the panel regarding Missouri's Career Centers. For more information, go to their website at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/special_needs_index.htm. Shawn is also the Civil Rights Compliance Director for DESE and the director of the Missouri Options Program (dropout prevention program).

Shawn indicated there are 57 area career centers in Missouri; many with special needs programs with some having specific programs geared to special education students.

As the Civil Rights Compliance Director, Shawn is responsible for conducting district onsite reviews each year. He reviews the district's policies and procedures for discrimination and accessibility issues.

The Missouri Options program is geared toward all 17 year olds who are behind on credits needed to graduate and is a good tool to reduce drop out rates for students with disabilities. When completing the program, students receive a regular high school diploma.

Shawn also mentioned that each year the Division of Career Education holds an annual transition conference in Springfield which brings in around 3,000 career educators. They have granted the Division of Special

Education's request to partner with their transition institute during the same week to better collaborate and potentially increase participation at both conferences.

Election of Officers - Bev indicated there had been difficulty obtaining nominations this year and suggested that the process be discussed at a meeting prior to elections next year.

Chair - Bev Woodhurst

Vice Chair - Ray Wicks

Secretary – Lynda Roberts

DESE Update

- IMACS System – Heidi indicated that approximately 150 districts are currently on IMACS. Since IMACS is still in the development and testing stage, it is limited to districts doing their monitoring self-assessments and grant districts.
- Incentive Grant Update – Heidi indicated 45 districts were approved for funding and seven are in the revision process. Those seven will be approved after they have completed their revisions.
- SPDG Update – Heidi indicated the grant is based on an integrated model that proposes combining PBS, Reading First, professional learning communities, RtI, and school to work to better impact student achievement.
- SELS/SELS2 – Heidi indicated that the Division has been communicating with school districts through SELS for the past several years. SELS membership is limited to only one contact per district. To provide these messages to a larger audience, SELS2 was created (the same messages are sent via SELS and SELS2). Anyone wishing to receive SELS messages can subscribe to SELS2. A flyer was created by the Division to advertise SELS2. If panel members would like a copy of the flyer to share with their stakeholder groups, contact Lina Browner. Heidi indicated this is a good way to keep up with what the Division is doing and encouraged all panel members to subscribe. To subscribe to SELS2, go to http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/sels2_subscribe.html. SELS messages are also archived at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/ListServPostings/LSPostings.html>.
- State Board Meetings – Heidi indicated that the State Board swore in a new board member, Derio Gambaro, at its last meeting. The State Board received a report on the status of the St. Louis City School District indicating that the transition board is in place. The elected school board tried to stop the transition by filing a motion in court but was not successful.
- OSEP Determination Letter – Heidi indicated that many people misunderstood what the OSEP determination for the state of Missouri really meant and, even though there were a few bad media reports, she felt DESE did well with just a few things needing to be fixed. Go to the following web link for a copy of the SELS message regarding this topic <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/ListServPostings/LS06.22.07.html>.
- Alumni Members for the Panel – After the last panel meeting, Heidi asked NCRRC to check with other states regarding this issue. NCRRC received responses from 23 states with only three using alumni members (the alumni members were used for different reasons for various committees).
- Virtual Schools – Heidi indicated that 2,500 children have signed up and that everything is on schedule. They have a contractor for elementary and high school. At this time, not sure how many are students with disabilities.

OSEP Leadership Conference – Bev indicated each year a panel member is invited to attend the OSEP Leadership Conference along with representatives from DESE and the Parent Training and Information Centers. This year the conference is August 8-10 in Washington, D.C. It was suggested that a parent from the panel attend. Pat Jackson volunteered and the panel agreed to have her attend.

New Panel Member Orientation – It was suggested the panel ask NCRRC to provide new member orientation again this year. It has been provided for the last two years and the members who have attended felt it was very helpful. It was suggested that it be done in conjunction with the October 12 panel meeting (possibly schedule the orientation for the afternoon of October 11).

Working Lunch - The subcommittees met for approximately one hour.

Election of Executive Committee Members

Kristen Callen
Pat Jackson
Patti Simcosky
Martha Crabtree

Subcommittee Reports

- Evaluation - The subcommittee met on June 7 at Special School District of St. Louis County to review the annual report. Joan Zavitsky indicated that since the annual report is supposed to be submitted by July 1, they changed the timeframe of the report to June 1, 2006, through May 31, 2007. Pat Jackson made a motion to approve the annual report as is with the changes suggested at the meeting. Patti Simcosky seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bylaws – Joan indicated that changes to the bylaws would have to first be incorporated into the Missouri State Plan which would require the changes to be submitted for public comment; so, unless a change is needed, changes would not be made.

- Rules and Regulations – Pat Jackson reported there was no new business.
- Monitoring – Mary Kay Savage indicated they would like to have data on child complaints and due process and would also like an update on focused monitoring at the next panel meeting.
- Programs – Martha Crabtree requested an update on Missouri Project, Virtual Schools, end of course exams, district professional development money (how districts are using the money and what guidelines schools have), and the possibility of setting up the MO Options program at DOC institutions (the program Shawn Brice mention earlier that could allow students of school age to get a high school diploma while in a correctional facility).
- Nominations – Trish Grassa indicated the panel currently has two parent vacancies (two recommendations are being processed) and one administrator vacancy (DESE is working to appoint someone).
- Public Comment – Jeaneal Alexander asked panel members to provide suggestions on what topic(s) of interest they would like to see the panel post on the website (a topic the panel would like additional input on from the public).

Member Issues/Reports - Martha Crabtree indicated that the Division of Learning Disabilities is hosting a one day conference on July 19 at 8:00 a.m. at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. There are four sessions to choose from at a cost of \$40 for CEC members and \$45 for nonmembers.

Adjournment – Eileen Huth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Coleman seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.